

EDUCATIONAL NUMBER

Centennial Bulletin of the American Bible Society Number 3

The purpose of this Bulletin is to supply information and suggestions useful in the celebration of the Centennial of the American Bible Society. The Society was organized in May, 1816.

The Great Object of the Celebration is to Exalt the Word of God

It is hoped that the calling of attention to the relation of the Bible to the religious experience of the individual, to the family, to society, to our Republic and to the nations, will result in a deeper appreciation and wider use of the Holy Scriptures.

A THOUGHT-PROVOKING LETTER FROM FAR CHINA

Chiang Chun Yamen

30 December 1915

Dear Mr. Torrance,

During our interview I was pleased to hear of the work of the American Bible Society in China and to know that you were going to celebrate your Centennial in New York next spring.

The work of your Society deserves to be encouraged and supported. It is the Bible that has made America great.

From it your people have derived their love of goodness, their wisdom & passion for liberty. That the Americans in turn should come to my country and seek to circulate this Book of Gods' shows that they are seeking the welfare of my countrymen.

It is a gratification to me to hear that your circulation reaches nearly two millions copies per year. Thus you sell mostly at half cost price that the poor people may be enabled to get them.

Truly this is praiseworthy. Will you thank your supporters at home for me for this benevolent work, and wish them not to be weary in well-doing. Their efforts should be supplemented rather than diminished until the land of China is as great and as strong as America. We love and trust America. We are sister nations, you the youngest and China the oldest in the world. Together we shall show all the others our love of peace, our desire for equity and in our relations to each other the true meaning of the brotherhood of man.

With greetings
yours sincerely

Yeh-lan
The Military Governor of Szechuan



(See Page 2)

This remarkable letter gives striking acknowledgment to a few of the great secondary benefits of Bible circulation and influence. The outstanding object of this Centennial is to exalt the Word of God. It is, therefore, an opportune time for calling to mind some of these secondary, but great, by-products. The great purpose and work of the Bible is to reveal God to man, to reveal man to himself, and to draw man to God. In translating, publishing and circulating the Scriptures for this end, what great benefits have accrued! Even a partial list of secondary results is impressive. Here are some:

1. Creation of written languages.
2. Enrichment of vocabularies.
3. Development of printing; e. g., in typography, paper and bindings.
4. Unifying of dialects and moulding of languages; e. g., the King James Version in England; Luther's Version in Germany.
5. Influence on literature.
6. Influence on customs and social life.
7. Influence on laws and government.
8. Promotion of popular education.
9. Path-making for commerce and civilization.
10. Teaching the worth of the individual.
11. Inspiration to liberty and democracy.
12. Dissemination of high ideals and generous purposes throughout the world.
13. The consequent unifying, or drawing together, of the world in ideals and just relations.

UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

In view of the foregoing, it seems most appropriate that universities, colleges, and institutions of higher learning take special cognizance of this great service of the Bible, during the celebration of the Centennial of the American Bible Society, which alone has contributed to the translation, publication, and circulation of 115,000,000 volumes of Scriptures throughout the world. Aside from the great spiritual service done by the Bible, its commercial, social, civic and literary service is almost universally acknowledged.

Arrangements for such recognition are already under way in some of the great universities of the land. Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary are uniting in special exercises for this purpose. Columbia University and Johns Hopkins University, are planning for special exercises. So also the University of Pittsburg and associated institutions.

Subjects for Essays

The by-products of the Bible would form suggestive subjects for essays in colleges, and compositions in high schools, during this Centennial year. A brief bibliography on some of these subjects is available, including such allied subjects as: The Romance of Precious Bibles; The Charms of the Bible; The Bible in the World's Education; The Bible as Literature.

Peculiarly opportune topics this year would be: The Bible in Shakespeare; Shakespeare's Knowledge and Use of the Bible; Shakespeare and the Bible; on each of which topics books exist.

LIBRARIES

The educational, political, and popular benefits derived through the Bible and its influence on the art of printing suggest a theme for one of those educational exhibits which are becoming more common in public and institutional libraries, and are making the libraries real factors in the entertainment and enlightenment of their patrons. There is a wide field from which to draw illustrations. The Bible has been printed in over 700 languages and dialects. Illustrations of many of these are available. The highest price ever paid for a book was the \$50,000 paid in New York City for a Gutenberg Bible, pictures of which are available. The Bible is the best seller: official statistics of the chief Bible societies in the world show that during the last 111 years over 400,000,000 volumes of Scripture have been circulated. The latest world statistics show that in 1914 30,000,000 copies of the Scriptures were circulated. In 1915 the American Bible Society alone circulated in China over 2,000,000 volumes of Scripture. Illustrations of ancient and illuminated Bibles, made before Gutenberg applied the art of printing to the Bible, are numerous, and historically informing. Other lines of illustration will suggest themselves to those interested.

Historical pictures of the City Hall in 1816, exterior and interior, and of the Capitol at Washington, with the Hall of the House of Representatives in 1844—dates important in the history of the Bible Society—are available.

A SURPRISING AND SIGNIFICANT LETTER FROM CHINA.

(See same letter in English on page 1)

貴會代表返國務請代向各創辦人士一達鄙意並請積極進行勿生懈志俾敝國獲臻強盛與貴國共增光榮互相親睦永久扶持將來兩大強國屹立東西
凡我美華人士孰不拜聖經之賜哉
陶然士君鑒日前晤談得聆貴會在華辦事一切成績並知紐約將於明春舉行百年大會無任欣羨查貴會辦理極稱得法允宜榮譽獎勵竊美國之所以冠厥當世者實賴聖經之力
貴國人民樂善不倦才智傑出悉由聖經所產茲承貴國人士傳至敝國每年約銷二百萬部且多以半價售出俾聖書得以廣布人間宏增吾民幸福實堪感謝此次貴會代表返國務請代向各創辦人士一達鄙意並請積極進行勿生懈志俾敝國獲臻強盛與貴國共增光榮互相親睦永久扶持將來兩大強國屹立東西
凡我美華人士孰不拜聖經之賜哉

Dr. Hykes, the Agent of the Bible Society in China, has come to America to assist in the Centennial, not only with remarkable stories but also with remarkable documents. One of them is presented herewith and on the first page. It not only emanated from the Military Governor of Szechuan, Tchen-I, but is the offspring of his own initiation. Transcribed for him in English by a subordinate educated in London, it received the Governor's official seal and his own signature, written in English with a Chinese pen. The translation in Chinese was written by himself on Chinese colored paper. Mr. Torrence, to whom it is addressed, is the Bible Society Superintendent in far Western Szechuan, which borders on Tibet.

The thought and the appeal of the letter are both worthy of very special attention. Think what it means when a Military Governor in old China writes:

"It is the Bible that has made America great. From it your people have derived their love of goodness, their wisdom and passion for liberty. . . . Will you thank your supporters at home for me for this benevolent work (circulating the Bible in China) and ask them not to be weary in well-doing? . . . We love and trust America. We are sister nations, you the youngest and China the oldest, in the world. Together we shall show all the others our love of peace, our desire for equity, and, in our relation to one another, the true meaning of the brotherhood of man!"

ADDITIONAL CO-OPERATING COMMITTEE

To represent the FIVE YEARS MEETING OF FRIENDS IN AMERICA, the following gentlemen have been appointed by the Chairman, Mr. Allen D. Hole, as a Co-operating Committee:

MR. JOSEPH JOHN MILLS, Gen. Sec., Pasadena, Cal.

MR. WILLARD O. TRUEBLOOD, Indianapolis, Ind.

MR. EDMUND STANLEY, Wichita, Kan.

MR. LINDLEY D. CLARK, Washington, D. C.

MR. WILLIAM C. TABER, New York.

CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY

The widely-desired Centennial History of the Bible Society has been issued by the publishers, The Macmillan Company. Those who have been privileged to look into it feel sure that it will prove of great interest and value to all who obtain it. It is for sale at \$1.00 in cloth, postage prepaid. At the earnest solicitation of many, it is also provided at 50 cents in paper cover. It has grown into a book of over 600 pages. Orders or inquiries should be addressed to the Secretaries, American Bible Society, Astor Place, New York City; or to any of the Home Agency Secretaries.

WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

In Memorial Hall

The official Celebration is to be addressed by the President of the United States and other distinguished speakers, and to be held at 4.30 p.m., on Sunday, May 7th, in the Memorial Hall of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On the Capitol Steps

There will be also a large outdoor meeting, if the weather permits, on the steps of the Capitol, at 2.30 p.m., on Sunday, May 7th. Special singing and fine music will be a feature—leaflets of appropriate hymns being supplied for all who gather. Several forceful speakers will address the audience.

In Convention Hall

Plans are maturing for popular celebrations of unusual interest. A representative committee has been formed on which are two of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, Gen. John W. Foster, ex-Secretary of State, and Dr. Merrill E. Gates, and many prominent citizens, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson leading the ladies. Convention Hall, seating several thousand persons, has been engaged for three productions by one group of Sunday schools of a series of tableaux on Saturday, May 6th. They will represent striking events and illustrious personages in the history of the Bible, and of the American Bible Society. St. Jerome's translation of the Latin Bible; Alcuin's revision in the eighth century; Tindale's English Version; Luther's German Bible; John Eliot's translation for the Indians; colporteurs selling Bibles at the Altar of Heaven—in China; the romance of Hiram Bingham's Gilbertese Bible—these will suggest the character of the representations, which are to be presented by different Sunday schools, under experienced direction. There will be presentations, morning, afternoon and evening, on Saturday, to all of which admission will be by tickets, distributed chiefly among Sunday schools and official guests.

It is possible another group of Sunday schools will give the same series of tableaux under the same auspices.

The purpose of all the celebrations will be the exaltation of the Bible as the Word of God.

AN IDEAL CENTENNIAL SERVICE

As this Bulletin goes to press the Programme of an ideal celebration at Cincinnati on Sunday, April 9th, cheers us.

The service was to be conducted in the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral by Bishop Boyd Vincent, and addressed by the Rev. Dr. McGurk (Methodist); the Rev. Dr. Kapp (Lutheran); and the Rev. Dr. McKibben (Presbyterian), President of Lane Theological Seminary. As the Bible is the common treasure of all, how fitting that all Communions *unite* in exalting it.

ACTIONS OF FEDERATED BODIES

The resolutions of several great Communions, concerning the American Bible Society Centennial, have been published. We present here the resolutions by two bodies representing many Communions.

Federal Council of the *Churches of Christ in America*, on the American Bible Society:

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America extends cordial congratulations to the American Bible Society on its approaching Centennial. Created as one of the earliest federated movements by the churches of America a hundred years ago, it has served the republic and the far mission lands of the earth with a single purpose. We hope that its Centennial Celebration may everywhere exalt the Holy Spirit as the Word of Life for individuals and nations.

Resolution of the *Presbyterian Alliance*—Western Section:

The Presbyterian Alliance, Western Section, notes with peculiar interest the approaching commemoration of the Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the American Bible Society, and strongly recommends the churches composing the Alliance to unite in every way possible with the Society in commemorating so significant an event. A hundred years of service to the churches should be fittingly recognized now.

The first President of the Society, Elias Boudinot, was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and ever since that time representative ministers, elders and laymen connected with our churches have taken vigorous and active part in the Society. This has bound them more closely together and strengthened the bond between them and other evangelical churches.

The Alliance cordially approves the proposal of the Society that Sunday, May 7, 1916, be observed as a Universal Bible Sunday, with services and sermons appropriate to this Centennial Commemoration.

SHORTAGE OF PAPER

The problem of paper supply, which is disturbing many commercial houses in this country, is seriously affecting the work of the American Bible Society. It has orders for paper, placed since the 10th of February, amounting to over 4,000 reams, or 80 tons; these are held up by the congestion of freight, and other causes. If this paper could be secured it would increase our stock of Scriptures about 600,000 volumes, two-thirds of which would be the one-cent and two-cent portions. Parts of these orders for paper have not yet even been manufactured. It is possible, therefore, that we may not be able to supply the Centennial literature as rapidly and freely as expected and desired.

Will all our friends be patient with us under these very trying circumstances?

Advanced Prices Possible

The 80 tons of paper above mentioned have been ordered at the old prices, so that our prices for Scriptures will not be raised at present. But if these conditions continue it may become necessary. Present quotations for paper used for the two-cent portions and the Minion and Agate Testament and Bible are double past prices. All other materials, as leather, glue, etc., have advanced from 10% to 15%.

SIX CARLOADS OF PAPER

The fact that paper ordered and undelivered during six weeks amounts to six carloads will give a new idea to many of the size of the publishing business of the Bible Society. If one could see the truck loads of paper that are brought to the Bible House, and the cases of published Scriptures that go out of it, they would be further impressed by the really immense publishing business which centers at the Bible House, and the problems that must arise for those in charge during these troubled and unsettled days.

IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Before the war a large stock of Scriptures in the languages of Europe had been imported. That stock is approaching exhaustion, where not already exhausted. It is difficult to say when it can be replenished. Orders for a further supply were given long ago. We are unable at present to fill orders for these books in full. In this fact the thoughtful will recognize an illustration of the interdependence of all peoples; and the unending interference of the war. We are cut off from the source of supply of Scriptures in the languages of the center and southeast of Europe. Also the important service which Germany has rendered in the past supply of these Scriptures is brought vividly to mind.

"ONE HUNDRED YEARS"

The Sunday School Programme with this title is available in quantities of twenty or more, at one cent a copy. Specimen copies free. It contains the music of special songs, and various suggestive and informing exercises. It provides parts for primary children, young people and adults. Suggestions are made which will facilitate its use in a simple form by those without many resources. It may be used any day most convenient for participants. But it is hoped that all who can will use it on

UNIVERSAL BIBLE SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1916

Sunday, the 7th of May, 1916, will complete 100 years of life and service of the American Bible Society. It seems eminently fitting that this day be marked by special services, recognizing the blessings which come from the Bible, and expressing gratitude to God on behalf of this Society, which has been the instrument of circulating over 115,000,000 of Scriptures during the century. Churches, Sunday Schools, Young People's Societies, and other Christian organizations, throughout the length and breadth of our great country, are invited to join in observing the day as a Universal Bible Sunday. Several thousand churches have already indicated their intention so to do. The invitation has gone to the many countries in which the Society works, and assurances of interest and co-operation are returning from the great mission fields, the Islands of the Seas, and even countries in Europe sadly distraught by the scourge of war.

Literature is available to assist those who wish to observe the day with special exercises. These include a special programme for Sunday Schools, a special order of services for Churches, Young People's and other organizations, and topics for addresses. The pamphlet, "The Bible Among the Nations," by Dr. Henry Otis Dwight, gives a brief review of the 100 years of the Bible Society, and furnishes choice material for an address. Suitable texts and an outline will be found at the beginning, which may be useful. Centennial Pamphlets, with helpful material for addresses, are ready; also, leaflets for free distribution.

CENTENNIAL PAMPHLETS

Single copies of the following Pamphlets will be *sent free to those preparing addresses*, and to others at the moderate charge named below the list.

Small Quarto (7½ x 8¾)

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| 1 The Bible, the Book of Mankind, by Prof. B. B. Warfield, D.D., LL.D. 16 pages. | 4 The Hebrew Bible, by Rev. S. B. Rohold, F.R.G.S., of Toronto. 12 pages. |
| 2 The Bible in Europe, by Prof. A. Kuyper, D.D., LL.D., of Holland. 12 pages. | 5 The Birthplace of the Bible Society, and other historical papers. 28 pages. |
| 3 The Greek Testament, The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople with the collaboration of the Bishop of Nicea, the Bishop of Sardis and the Bishop of Seleucia. 12 pages. | Centennial Bulletins. To appear at intervals with information about Centennial preparations and plans. |

Small Octavo (5 x 7¼)

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| 10 The Bible Among the Nations, by Rev. Henry Otis Dwight, LL.D. 32 pages. | 17 Light After Dark Centuries—in the Philippines. 20 pages. |
| 11 Around the World for the Centennial, illustrated, by Rev. William Ingraham Haven, D.D. 116 pages. | 18 The Bible in The Land of the White Elephant, Siam. 20 pages. |
| 12 The American Bible Society in China, by Rev. John R. Hykes, D.D. 52 pages. | 19 American Bible Society in India. 20 pages. |
| 13 The Bible in Korea, by Rev. George Heber Jones, D.D. 20 pages. | 20 Specimen Verses of Scripture in Languages and Dialects. 60 pages. |
| 14 The Bible in the Life of the Indians of the United States, by Rev. Thomas C. Moffett, D.D. 24 pages. | 21 List of Printed Versions, by Bernhard Pick, Ph.D., D.D.* |
| 15 The Bible in Brazil, by Rev. Hugh C. Tucker. 28 pages. | 22 Translations of the Scriptures into the Chinese Languages, by Rev. John R. Hykes, D.D.* |
| 16 Spiritual Victories in Latin America: Mr. Penzotti's Autobiography. 74 pages. | |

* In Preparation

Single copies of these pamphlets may be had, postpaid, for 5 cents each; in quantities of 10 or more at 3 cents each. Order from The Secretaries, American Bible Society, Astor Place, New York City, or from Agency Secretaries.